

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /049 W
-----251306Z 036470 /41

O R 251229Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9822

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 01307

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, UK' OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: WHO'S WHO IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH
CALLAGHAN

1. BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND
OF GUESTS AT THE PM'S DINNER FOLLOW:

2. THE MEETINGS:
-- PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN - CALLAGHAN IS
FRIENDLY. BLUFF AND AVUNCULAR AND ENJOYS BEING PRIME
MINISTER. HE IS CONSCIOUS OF HIS LACK OF FORMAL
EDUCATION. HE LEFT SCHOOL AT L6, BUT TAKES PRIDE IN HIS
HUMBLE ORIGINS AND HIS ROOTS IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.
THESE FACTS COLOR CALLAGHAN'S INHERENTLY CONSERVATIVE
POLITICAL ATTITUDES. AND HIS TIES WITH THE UNIONS, ALONG
WITH HIS VAUNTED POLITICAL SKILLS, ARE AMONG HIS PRINCIPAL
STRENGTHS AS LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY. HIS SERVICE
AS FOREIGN SECRETARY (1974 - 1976) REINFORCED HIS ALREADY
STRONG COMMITMENT TO BRITAIN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE U.S. HE PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY ON ITS MAINTENANCE.
CALLAGHAN WILL, NO DOUBT, SEEK TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, VICE PRESI-
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DENT MONDALE AND SECRETARY VANCE.

-- CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER DENIS HEALEY -- THE
INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE HEALEY HAS THE CAPACITY TO
CHARM. BUT IN A SHOWDOWN WITH POLITICAL OPPONENTS, HE CAN
BE TOUGH. AGGRESSIVE AND BRUTAL, THUS HIS REPUTATION AS A
POLITICAL THUG. CLEARLY ONE OF THE MOST ABLE MEN IN THE

CABINET' HEALEY HAS BEEN BURNT OUT POLITICALLY DURING HIS 35 MONTHS AT TREASURY AND IS EXPECTED TO MOVE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE LATER THIS YEAR. HE IS EXTREMELY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.

-- FOREIGN SECRETARY ANTHONY CROSLAND - THE CABINET'S LEADING INTELLECTUAL, CROSLAND IS A MAN OF UNFULFILLED PROMISE. MODERATE, URBANE AND WITTY, HE HAS MANY ATTRIBUTES WHICH WOULD MARK HIM AS A POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR TO CALLAGHAN, BUT HE SEEMS TO LACK THE CRUCIAL SPARK NEEDED TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP. MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN. HE GENUINELY LIKES THE U.S. AND AS FOREIGN SECRETARY WORKED CLOSELY WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. CROSLAND IS EXPECTED TO REPLACE HEALEY AT TREASURY LATER THIS YEAR.

-- ENERGY SECRETARY ANTHONY BENN - TONY, AS HE PREFERS TO BE CALLED, IS THE DARLING OF THE LABOR PARTY'S LEFT-WING AND A FORMER PEER (HE RENOUNCED HIS TITLE, VISCOUNT STANSFORD, IN 1963). A THOUGHTFUL AND ATTRACTIVE PROPONENT OF LEFT-WING POPULISM, BENN HAS OBVIOUS AMBITIONS TO BECOME PM. ALTHOUGH BASICALLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. (HE TOO IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN), HE BELIEVES THERE ARE WIDE DIVERGENCES OF INTEREST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR.

-- INDUSTRY SECRETARY ERIC VARLEY - A PROTEGE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER WILSON, VARLEY, AT 44, IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CABINET. A FORMER COAL MINER, HE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS PROVED TO BE A COMPETENT, THOUGH COLORLESS, ADMINISTRATOR. WHILE OCCASIONALLY TOUTED AS A POTENTIAL PM, WE HAVE SEEN LITTLE THAT WOULD INDICATE HE IS OF THAT CALIBER.

-- DEFENSE SECRETARY FRED MULLEY - A TESTED POLITICAL WHEELHORSE, THE AFFABLE MULLEY ASSUMED HIS PRESENT DUTIES ONLY RECENTLY, BUT HAS A REPUTATION AS ONE OF LABOR'S LEADING DEFENSE EXPERTS. HE IS A STRONG ADMIRER OF THE U.S., HAS MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS AND IS A FIRM NATO ADVOCATE. LOW-KEY, RETIRING AND INTELLIGENT, MULLEY HAS ACUTE POLITICAL ANTENNAE, BUT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE A STRONG DEFENSE MINISTER.

-- CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER HAROLD LEVER - A MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, LEVER'S STOCK IN

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SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /049 W
-----251306Z 036509 /41

O R 251229Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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THE CABINET AND IMPORTANCE AS ONE OF CALLAGHAN'S ECONOMIC ADVISORS HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY AS A RESULT OF HIS ROLE IN THE RECENT IMF NEGOTIATIONS. LEVER IS ARTICULATE, WITTY AND OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY AND IDEAS. HE IS A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMAN AND FINANCIER AND IS ON THE RIGHT-WING OF THE LABOR PARTY. A STROKE IN 1972 LEFT HIM PARTIALLY PARALYZED ON THE LEFT SIDE BUT DID NOT SLOW HIM DOWN. LEVER IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S.

-- SECRETARY OF TRADE EDMUND DELL - A CONFIDANT OF HEALEY, DELL IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE AND GRASP OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. HE IS A CONFIRMED LIBERALIN TRADE MATTERS. FIRMLY ON THE RIGHT-WING OF THE PARTY, DELL TOO HOLDS THE U.S. IN HIGH ESTEEM. THE NEWEST OF THE CABINET MINISTERS THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL MEET, HE OWES HIS POSITION MORE TO HIS ABILITY THAN TO A POLITICAL POWER BASE. HE IS A RATHER COLORLESS FIGURE, BUT FORMIDABLE IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE.

-- SECRETARY TO THE CABINET SIR JOHN HUNT - THE MOST POWERFUL CIVIL SERVANT IN GOVERNMENT SINCE 1973 WHEN HE WAS NAMED TO THIS POST, SIR JOHN ATTENDS ALL CABINET
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MEETINGS AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL BACKUP FOR THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS. HE IS A MAN OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY AND GREAT DISCRETION.

-- PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE (FOREIGN OFFICE) SIR MICHAEL PALLISER - HE IS BRITAIN'S RANKING PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT AND ONE OF ITS MOST RESPECTED CIVIL SERVANTS. SIR MICHAEL ASSUMED HIS CURRENT POSITION IN OCTOBER 1975, FOLLOWING 4 YEARS IN BRUSSELS AS BRITAIN'S AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EC. HE KNOWS THE EUROPEAN SCENE EXCEEDINGLY WELL AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

-- AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. SIR PETER RAMSBOTHAM - ONE OF BRITAIN'S MOST OUTSTANDING DIPLOMATS, SIR PETER HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON SINCE MARCH 1974. INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE AND ENERGETIC, HE IS ABLE TO GRASP THE ESSENTIALS OF AN ISSUE QUICKLY AND IS A MASTER OF DETAIL. SIR PETER ENJOYS THE COMPANY OF AMERICANS. HE HAS A TENDENCY TO TALK TOO MUCH.

-- PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PM PATRICK WRIGHT - HE WILL BE HMG'S OFFICIAL NOTE TAKER. NAMED TO HIS PRESENT POST IN 1974 AND A CAREER DIPLOMAT, WRIGHT'S CHIEF DUTY IS TO ADVISE THE PM ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS.

3. THE DINNER: THE GUEST LIST (SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION) FOR CALLAGHAN'S DINNER INCLUDES CROSLAND, HEALEY, LEVER, HUNT AND RAMSBOTHAM. FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL NOT ATTEND TALKS ARE ALSO INCLUDED ON DINNER GUEST LIST:

-- LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS MICHAEL FOOT - AFTER HAVING RUN SECOND TO CALLAGHAN IN THE LEADERSHIP CONTEST LAST MARCH, HE WAS ELECTED DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY IN LATE 1976. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. FOOT IS QUIET AND RETIRING, BUT ON THE STUMP BECOMES A FIERY, PASSIONATE SPEAKER. FANNING THE "RED FLAMES OF SOCIALIST COURAGE". IN SPITE OF HIS LIFE-LONG REPUTATION AS A LEFT-WINGER, FOOT HAS PROVEN TO BE A LOYAL AND EFFECTIVE MEMBER OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT.

-- PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY (TREASURY) SIR DOUGLAS WASS - THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE POWERFUL TREASURY DEPARTMENT, SIR DOUGLAS HAS A MAJOR VOICE IN FORMULATING BRITISH ECONOMIC POLICY. HE HAS LIVED IN THE U.S. AS AN

IMF DIRECTOR AND AS A BROOKINGS FELLOW. HE IS FRIENDLY AND ARTICULATE.

-- GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND GORDON RICHARDSON - A PROMINENT MERCHANT BANKER UNTIL 1973 WHEN HE WAS NAMED TO HIS PRESENT POST, RICHARDSON IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN INTERNATIONAL BANKING CIRCLES. HE IS FRIENDLY AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD AMERICANS. POSSESSING A KEEN INTELL-ECT AND WIDE INTERESTS, HE TENDS TO BE CIRCUMSPECT DISCUSSING ECONOMIC ISSUES.

-- POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE PM TOM MCNALLY - AN INTELLIGENT, TOUGH-MINDED, MODERATE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, MCNALLY HAS TRAVELED WIDELY AND IS ESPECIALLY KNOWLEDGE-

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SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /049 W
-----251305Z 036547 /41

O R 251229Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ABLE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. CLOSE TO CALLAGHAN, HE IS STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN, AND BELIEVES BRITAIN SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE EC.

-- POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE PM BERNARD DONOUGHUE - AN EXCEPTIONALLY BRIGHT AND THOUGHTFUL POLITICAL SCIENTIST' DONOUGHUE IN 1974 WAS NAMED TO HEAD UP A POLITICAL "THINK TANK" AT NUMBER 10. ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO EXAMINE DEPARTMENTAL PROPOSALS AND ASSESS THEIR BROADER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

-- PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PM TOM MCCAFFREY -
MCCAFFREY IS CALLAGHAN'S PRINCIPAL LINK WITH THE PRESS,
HAVING SERVED HIM IN SIMILAR CAPACITIES IN BOTH THE HOME
OFFICE AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE IS A BRIGHT, ENERGETIC
INDIVIDUAL AND REFLECTS HIS BOSS' VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE
OF ANGLO/U.S. RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES.

-- PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PM KEN STOWE
- A CAREER CIVIL SERVANT, STOWE WAS NAMED TO HIS PRESENT
POST IN JANUARY 1975, HAVING SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS UNDER-
SECRETARY IN THE CABINET OFFICE. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
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THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE PM'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

-- PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PM
ROGER STOTT - A LABOR MP, STOTT ASSISTS CALLAGHAN WITH
HIS CONSTITUENCY AFFAIRS AND ACTS AS HIS GENERAL DOGSBODY
IN PARLIAMENT.

4. SINCE TYPING THIS CABLE, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT VARLEY
WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE MEETING.

5. WE HAVE ADVISED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT VICE
PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY AARON AS NOTE-
TAKER DURING PRIVATE HALF-HOUR TETE-A-TETE BEFORE
EXPANDED MEETING. LATTER WILL BE ATTENDED ON US SIDE,
IN ADDITION TO VICE PRESIDENT AND DCM, BY COOPER,
HARTMAN, BERGSTEN AND AARON. WE HAVE GIVEN PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE LIST OF ENTIRE VICE PRESIDENTIAL
OFFICIAL PARTY IN PROTOCOL ORDER (STATE 15017) AND SAID
WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BEING ACCOM-
MODATED AT DINNER. PM'S OFFICE HAS NOT YET INFORMED US
IF, OR WHERE, A LINE WILL HAVE TO BE DRAWN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, VICE PRESIDENT, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON01307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3512842
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHO'S WHO IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH CALLAGHAN
TAGS: PINT, OVIP, UK, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: BONN BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f749ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009